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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 21 FEB 2002 199500644

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AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY
USOFFICE ABUJA PRIORITY
DOD WASHDC 0000
WHITE HOUSE 0000

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - JULY 29 1994

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1. THE FOLLOWING IS RWANDA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF, IO AND
PRM), BURUNDI PRESS GUIDANCE (AF), NIGERIA PRESS GUIDANCE
(AF).

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: RECOGNITION

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZE THE RPF-LED
GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA?

A: THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KIGALI IS THE ENTITY THAT
EXERCISES EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN RWANDA. WE RECOGNIZE THEM
AS SUCH AND CONSIDER IT A MATTER OF URGENCY TO WORK WITH
THEM TO FULFILL OUR HUMANITARIAN MISSION.

BUT WE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE FORMATION OF A TRULY
BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT THAT RESPECTS THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
ALL RWANDANS AND CREATES CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERSU DE
THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE WILL BE TRAVELLING TO THE
REGION THIS WEEKEND WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY PERRY AND WILL
CONTINUE HIS DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE
SECRETARY HAS SENT AMBASSADOR DAVID RAWSON TO KIGALI TO
ENCOURAGE THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS
NECESSARY FOR THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES.

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WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW
GOVERNMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN POSITIVE CONCRETE
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ACHIEVEMENTS. THESE INCLUDE JOINT RPF-UNAMIR PATROLS, A
STATED WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
MONITORS, AND CONFIRMATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO RIGOROUS
SCREENING OF REFUGEES WISHING TO RETURN TO RWANDA.

3. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: POLITICAL RUNDOWN

Q: WHAT IS DAVID RAWSON DOING? WITH WHOM IS HE MEETING?
HOW IS HIS MISSION GOING?

A. AMBASSADOR RAWSON HAS BEEN SENT BACK TO RWANDA
PRIMARILY TO FACILITATE THE RELIEF EFFORT AND TO ENCOURAGE
THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS THAT WOULD
ENCOURAGE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES. HE HAS MET WITH VARIOUS
OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, UNAMIR AND OTHER
INDIVIDUALS HANDLING THE CRISIS.

RAWSON'S MISSION HAS BEEN GOING WELL, AND WE ARE
ENCOURAGED BY OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THERE
HAVE BEEN POSITIVE CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS. THESE INCLUDE
JOINT RPF-UNAMIR PATROLS, A STATED WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW
THE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS, AND CONFIRMATION
THAT THERE WILL BE NO RIGOROUS SCREENING OF REFUGEES
WISHING TO RETURN TO RWANDA.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON REFUGEES RETURNING TO
RWANDA? IF THEY RETURN, WILL THEY BE SAFE?

A: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE
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THE RWANDAN REFUGEE CRISIS IS FOR THE REFUGEES TO RETURN
HOME VOLUNTARILY AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAN SAFELY DO SO.
EVEN WITH FULL SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF ALL AVAILABLE
RESOURCES, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CANNOT MEET THE

NEEDS OF OVER A MILLION REFUGEES CROWDED INTO A SMALL
CORNER OF ZAIRE.

THE NEWLY INSTALLED RPF GOVERNMENT MUST WORK QUICKLY TO
CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL GIVE THE REFUGEES THE

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CONFIDENCE THAT THEY CAN SAFELY RETURN HOME. THE INSTALLATION OF A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT WHICH IS REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDAN SOCIETY IS AN IMPORTANT GOAL IN THIS REGARD. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO INCREASE CONFIDENCE, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF JOINT RPF-UNAMIR PATROLS AND THE STATEMENT OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS IN RWANDA. THE GOVERNMENT'S STATED COMMITMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO RIGOROUS SCREENING OF RETURNING REFUGEES IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN REASSURING RETURNING REFUGEES.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP BY WORKING FOR THE IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL UNAMIR TROOPS TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN RWANDA, AND BY ESTABLISHING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS TO ASSURE THAT RETURNING REFUGEES RECEIVE FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

Q: WHY IS THERE NO DECISION YET ON U.S. TROOPS GOING INTO RWANDA?

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A: WE RECOGNIZE THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION. ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL GOALS FOR RWANDA IS TO SAVE LIVES THROUGH AN URGENT HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE.

A DECISION ON THE BEST WAY TO DEPLOY U.S. TROOPS TO DELIVER CRITICALLY NEEDED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RWANDAN REFUGEES IS BEING MADE BASED ON THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY LT. GENERAL SCHROEDER'S ASSESSMENT TEAM. AMONG THE OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED IS THE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. TROOPS INTO RWANDA..

Q: UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS MIGHT THEY BE INTRODUCED?

A: WE ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT UNIT.

U.S. TROOPS WOULD NOT BE DEPLOYED IN A PEACEKEEPING ROLE. THEIR MISSION WOULD BE STRICTLY TO PROVIDE LOGISTICA AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE.

Q: ARE WE WAITING UNTIL AFTER PERRY AND MOOSE VISIT THE AREA BEFORE MAKING THE DECISION?

A: NO. THE ASSESSMENT TEAM NOW ON THE GROUND WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE TO ALLOW A DECISION ON WHETHER AND HOW BEST TO

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DEPLOY TROOPS TO BE MADE.

BUT IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION AS EFFICIENTLY AS
POSSIBLE IT IS NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND GET
A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SET UP BEFORE TROOPS ARE DEPLOYED
AND MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES ARE DELIVERED.
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4. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: REFUGEE UPDATE

Q: WOULD YOU PROVIDE US WITH AN UPDATE ON RWANDAN
REFUGEES?

A: THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 2.2 MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES IN
THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF ZAIRE BURUNDI TANZANIA, AND
UGANDA.

1.5 MILLION REFUGEES ARE IN ZAIRE. ONE MILLION ARE IN THE
GOMA AREA, AND 500,000 ARE IN BUKAVU AND UVIRA.

BURUNDI'S REFUGEE POPULATION HAS INCREASED TO SOME
353,000. THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY STREAM OF REFUGEES
CROSSING FROM RWANDA INTO BURUNDI.

APPROXIMATELY 367,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE IN TANZANIA.
BETWEEN 5,000-7,000 A DAY CONTINUE TO ARRIVE.

10,500 ARE IN UGANDA.

UNHCR REPORTS THAT ABOUT TO 50,000 REFUGEES FROM THE GOMA
AREA HAVE CROSSED BACK INTO RWANDA SINCE THE BORDER WAS
REOPENED LAST SUNDAY.

INSIDE RWANDA, AN ESTIMATED 60,000 PEOPLE HAVE LEFT THE
FRENCH SAFE ZONE AND RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.

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Q: WHAT IS THE HEALTH SITUATION OF THE REFUGEES IN THE
GOMA AREA?

A: OVER 18,000 REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY DIED FROM
CHOLERA, HUNGER, EXHAUSTION AND DEHYDRATION. MOST OF
THESE DEATHS RESULTED FROM CHOLERA

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BETWEEN 50,000-80,000 REFUGEES ARE ESTIMATED TO BE INFECTED WITH CHOLERA.

THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL HAVE SENT A TEAM OF DOCTORS TO THE AREA TO HELP UNHCR WITH THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO HELP?

A: PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS SEEKING SUPPLEMENTAL FUDNING OF DOLLARS 320 MILLION FROM CONGRESS TO ADDRESS THE RWANDAN EMERGENCY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SINCE THE RWANDA CRISIS BEGAN IN APRIL 1994.

OUR TOTAL CONTRIBUTION NOW STANDS AT OVER DOLLARS 250 MILLION, INCLUDING THE DOLLARS 100 MILLION WORTH OF IN-KIND ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. THIS MAKES THE UNITED STATES THE LARGEST SINGLE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTOR OF AID.

THIS INCLUDES FUNDING FOR UNHCR, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND
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OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS;
AND PROVIDES FOOD COMMODITIES, MEDICAL AND RELIEF
SUPPLIES, LOGISTICAL SERVICES AND AIRLIFT SUPPORT.

Q: WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE ABOUT A UN APPEALS AND A PLEDGING CONFERENCE?

A: THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) IS COORDINATING THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO REFUGEE CRISIS.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS SPONSORED A TOTAL OF 161 HUMANITARIAN FLIGHTS TO GOMA SINCE THE EMERGENCY APPEAL CAME OUT A WEEK AGO.

A UNITED NATIONS INTERAGENCY APPEAL ON RWANDA WAS LAUNCHED IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA LAST FRIDAY.

A PLEDGING CONFERENCE TO SEEK DONOR SUPPORT FOR URGENTLY NEEDED RESOURCES FOR THE RWANDA CRISIS WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA ON AUGUST 2 (TUESDAY).

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ASIDE FROM THE UNHCR TEAM IN GOMA, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP), AND A NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) ARE WORKING TO HELP THE RWANDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

(FYI):

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN FROM
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CALIFORNIA WHO WENT TO GOMA?

A: A TEAM OF FIREFIGHTERS FROM CALIFORNIA ARE IN GOMA TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF THE RWANDAN REFUGEES.

THE SEVEN-PERSON TEAM BROUGHT WITH THEM EQUIPMENT THAT CAN PUMP AND PURIFY ABOUT 500,000 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY.

12 MORE PURIFICATION UNITS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SHORTLY, WHICH WILL BOOST PRODUCTION OF FRESH WATER TO ABOUT 1.5 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY.

THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSE BY AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS TO THE PLIGHT OF THE RWANDAN REFUGEES.

5. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: UNAMIR TROOP CONTRIBUTORS

Q: PLEASE PROVIDE A STATUS REPORT ON UNAMIR TROOP DEPLOYMENTS. WHAT OF REPORTS THAT 3,000 ADDITIONAL TROOPS ARE ARRIVING SOON? WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH BRINGING UNAMIR UP TO ITS FULL STRENGTH OF 5500 TROOPS? ALSO, WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE APCS WE LEASED TO THE UN FOR USE BY THE GHANAIAI CONTINGENT?

A: THE FOLLOWING IS A STATUS REPORT ON TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNAMIR:

ETHIOPIA: IS EXPECTED TO SEND AN ADVANCE TEAM BY AUGUST 3, AND A BATTALION OF 815 SHORTLY THEREAFTER.
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GHANA: IS EXPECTED TO DEPLOY ITS REMAINING 280 TROOP S

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WITHIN ONE TO TWO WEEKS. THE USG IS WORKING TO EXPEDITE THE LEASE/SALE AND SHIPMENT OF THEIR EQUIPMENT.

NIGERIA: IS EXPECTED TO DEPLOY 120 TROOPS WITHIN TEN DAYS.

TUNISIA: IS CONSIDERING THE DEPLOYMENT OF 1000 IN AUGUST.

THE USG IS ENCOURAGING THE FOUR FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOW PARTICIPATING IN THE FRENCH-LED OPERATION TURQUOISE TO ALLOW THEIR 500 TROOPS TO STAY ON AFTER FRANCE'S WITHDRAWAL AND MERGE WITH UNAMIR.

ABOVE DEPLOYMENTS WOULD CONSTITUTE 2715 NEW UNAMIR TROOPS.

IN ADDITION, CANADA WILL DEPLOY A COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION OF 350 WITHIN ONE TO TWO WEEKS.

AUSTRALIA: WILL DEPLOY A MEDICAL UNIT OF 300 AND A SECURITY UNIT OF 120 BEGINNING AUGUST 6.

BRITAIN: WILL SEND AN ENGINEERING UNIT OF 250-300 BEGINNING NEXT WEEK.

EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES HAVE BEEN THE PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO DEPLOYING TROOPS FOR UNAMIR. THE ONLY TROOPS DEPLOYED HAVE BEEN THE GHANIAN, WHO ARE BEING EQUIPPED BY THE U.S.. WE ARE WORKING TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO
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UNEQUIPPED UNAMIR CONTINGENTS.

FOURTEEN OF THE 50 APC'S FURNISHED BY THE U.S. HAVE BEEN MOVED BY THE UN FROM ENTEBBE, UGANDA TO KIGALI. THE REST ARE EXPECTED TO BE MOVED SOON.

6. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - BURUNDI: SITUATION UPDATE

Q: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BURUNDI? IS THERE DANGER OF IT BECOMING ANOTHER RWANDA?

A: POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF BURUNDI SOCIETY ARE ENGAGED IN TALKS TO FILL THE PRESIDENTIAL VACANCY LEFT BY PRESIDENT NTARYAMIRA'S DEATH IN THE APRIL 6 PLANE CRASH IN RWANDA. UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, SYLVESTRE NTIBANTUNGAN A.

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SERVES AS INTERIM PRESIDENT UNTIL A NEW PRESIDENT IS

SELECTED. REGRETTABLY, THIS TRANSITION PERIOD HAS BEEN
MARRED BY ETHNIC CLASHES AND KILLINGS, AND TENSIONS ARE
ELEVATED.

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT BURUNDI AND RWANDA SHARE A SIMILAR
ETHNIC MIX AND THAT BURUNDI HAS EXPERIENCED SERIOUS
ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN THE PAST, THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT HAS
MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CALM DURING THIS
TRANSITIONAL TIME.

WE ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND ENCOURAGING
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ALL SIDES TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE. WE ARE SUPPORTING THE
EFFORTS OF THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, AHMEDOU
ABDALLAH, THE SMALL (33-MAN) OAU MONITORING FORCE INTENDED
TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSIONER'S PLAN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY
SERVICES FOR BURUNDI.

7. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NIGERIA: GENERAL SITUATION

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN
NIGERIA?

A: NIGERIA IS CALM TODAY AFTER YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS
IN WHICH AT LEAST ONE PERSON WAS KILLED IN ABUJA. THE
DEMONSTRATORS WERE CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF MOSHOOD
ABIOLA, WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT
FOR THE PAST MONTH.

WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY. WE REMIND
ALL AMERICANS THAT CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED WHEN
TRAVELLING TO NIGERIA.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING NEW SANCTIONS
AGAINST NIGERIA, AS ASSERTED BY JESSIE JACKSON?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT REVEREND JACKSON SAID THAT CONGRESS
WAS CONSIDERING NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST NIGERIA.

WE CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN NIGERIA ON A
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REGULAR BASIS AND WILL TAKE SUCH FURTHER ACTIONS AS MAY
CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY.

Q: WHAT IS OUR OVERALL POLICY TOWARD NIGERIA?

A: THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS RESPONSIBLE EFFORTS TO
RESTORE CIVILIAN, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT TO NIGERIA. THE
UNITED STATES HAS NOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY
INDIVIDUAL. OUR INTEREST IS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AND
RESPECT FOR A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THAT ENSURES THAT THE
WILL OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE IS RESPECTED.

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